

is, in fact, something that the Legislature has a responsibility to do. It is something that only can be done by the Legislature. The Legislature is basically the father of the counties, and the only way this can be done is by legislation, and I would encourage the body to bring this bill out. I think it needs to be debated and discussed. There is a great need for this in Douglas County. The Commissioners favor it. Most of the people in Douglas County, I believe, favor it. So with that I would second Senator Chambers' motion and urge you to...but anyways I would very much appreciate it if we brought this bill to the floor for its consideration. We ought to do it this year as opposed to next year because if we want to get these elections in place and so forth, the districts drawn, it ought to be done this year. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Swigart.

SENATOR SWIGART: Mr. Chairman and colleagues, I rise to oppose this because I think this is kind of a forerunner intended psychologically to make the atmosphere a little more fertile for having the same thing next year when possibly I wouldn't be here to fight it to get it for the cities, the City of Omaha, I should say. So I think this is kind of just preparing the atmosphere so that it would be acceptable then next year to make an effort to put it in for the City of Omaha and the City of Omaha has voted twice not to have it. I didn't know that the county had ever voted. I don't think they voted favorable. I don't recall such an election. So if this was voted favorable by the county, put it on the ballot. I certainly wouldn't fight that but I don't believe the people in our community want this election for either the county commissioners or the city council by districts. There are arguments on both sides. I think there is a lot of merit on either side but let's face it, the people of Omaha turned it down once two to one against it and I think this is simply a preface so to make the atmosphere more favorable for getting it done next year for the city. So I would rise to oppose and to respect the inaction of the committee.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am a member of the Government Committee in which LB 62 was heard and our inaction, I might explain, is probably due to the fact that on a number of occasions when I think there were sufficient votes to indefinitely postpone this bill, in courtesy to Senator Chambers who was not present, no action was taken. I would just echo some of the comments that Senator Swigart has made with reference to opposition to election of county board members by district and also the city council. Now, traditionally, the City of Omaha has advised their elected officials and those in the Legislature that wish to change these things, they are very capable of devising a system in which they wish to elect their officials. Senator Newell referred to the fact that the Douglas County Board on a vote of four to one favored this measure. Well, you are talking about five men. You are not talking about the majority of the citizenry in the City of Omaha or in Douglas County. He also indicates that there is a great need to change the current elective procedure for county board members. Well, I see